
Adult Language Learners: Context and Innovation

Review by Piret Luik

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Adult Language Learners: Context and Innovation. Ann F. V. Smith and Gregory Strong, volume editors. TESOL Classroom Practice Series. 2009. ISBN 9781931185615. 178 pp. Member: \$29.95. Nonmember: \$39.95.

Adult Language Learners: Context and Innovation is part of the TESOL Classroom Practice Series and thereby very practically oriented. The book focuses on adult language learners and is meant to serve as a guide mainly for ESL/EFL teachers but also for those becoming teachers or who are volunteering in the field.

The book examines three main areas: teacher development, extending learner autonomy, and innovations within the course. Each section focuses on recent developments in specific topics.

The book is practice and innovation oriented, making it easy to read and highly useful for those seeking to improve themselves and their teaching practices. Each chapter is written with classroom application in mind, especially focusing on innovation in adult language learning. Also, appendices are added to make the chapter ideas even more useable and testable in readers' teaching contexts.

The chapters are short (around ten pages) and concise. Yet, the authors have included everything necessary to make the writing complete and pleasant to read. Most chapters include tables and figures, thereby making the reading, situation, and solutions even easier to follow. Each chapter has three sections: context; curriculum, tasks, materials; and reflections. The sections are preceded by a short introduction describing the general situation in the chapter specific field. The first section, context, describes a specific situation to offer a clear context for exploring the chapter theme. The next section discusses the curriculum, tasks, and materials involved to try to solve the context situation. The last part, reflections, serves as a summary which at the same time offers further solutions to the situation discussed in the chapter. The sequencing is logical, and each

section includes enough information to make the application of the innovation as easy as possible.

Adult Language Learners: Context and Innovation is a very helpful book for those looking to improve their teaching practice and to bring innovation into their classrooms. The book is enjoyable and offers examples from ESL, EFL, and ESP contexts. It will certainly help the reader to become familiar with and to utilize, as desired, new successful instructional practices in TESOL.

About the Author

Piret Luik is a second year TESOL MA student at Brigham Young University. She has taught Writing and Structure courses to beginners at BYU's English Language Center. Her interests include curriculum design, and second language acquisition.